

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

TO ALL OUR
READERS



THE HOTSPUR

EVERY THURSDAY * No. 636 * December 25th, 1971.

3p



FACE to face with a ferocious monster that was the
perfect gift of the Spirit of Christmas, the amazing
robber, who was searching for his young friend, Tom
"Red Star" Robinson.

When the monster, an enormous monster who
wielded lightning bolts, appeared in the cave, Tom
and the monster fought a long battle. In the end,
the monster was defeated. Tom disappeared in a
thunderstorm on a glacier.

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Red Star Robinson - Badnasa from Ant cover

Earlier, in the hotel.



High on the glacier.





What perils await Mr Thrice beneath the ice cave floor? Find out NEXT WEEK!

STARTS TODAY! A British secret agent uncovers a secret war!

WERE INVOLVES FROM THE SEA





When they docked at Plymouth Larry reported the murder attempt and handed the fragment over to the police. He and Jeremy then went home to their cottage where Larry phoned his chief, Jeremy Crabtree, and told him what had happened.



Larry and his chief then headed for the police station.

ONE REPORTER GOT TO HIM FIRST. THE STORY WAS IN 'THE LOCAL TOWN'!

THEY WERE BOTH VERY NERVOUS AND WERE POLICE STATION! NOT AROUND THE CORNER!



The body of the fragment was recovered and later Larry and his chief made their way to the cottage.

DO THE BODY ONE YOU ARE CLUES, I'VE GOT!

IT WAS THAT TATTOO YOU SAW YOU SAID, IT'S THE MARK OF THE BROTHERHOOD!



The chief explained that the Nazi Warawar was a famous organization who refused to believe that the Second World War was over, they had gone underground when Germany surrendered, waiting to fight again and arrange Germany's defeat.



What will be the message on the film? Find out NEXT WEEK.

New yarn! The Wild West town with a British bobby as its lawman!

THE BOBBY OF BLACK ROCK





Joe has to deal with a bank robbery in **NEXT WEEK'S** laugh-packed story!

Robin makes his getaway when the enemy put their heads together! 11



By using the Baron as a hostage, Robin and his two friends were able to leave the Castle.



The charge of the cattle cavalry!



NEXT WEEK — King Richard and Prince John battle for the throne of England!

Extra pocket money for these lucky lads!

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Christmas Pie

"I'm All Right, Jack"

A plane full of passengers was running into trouble over the North Sea with only one parachute aboard. The pilot strapped it on and baled out, shouting — "Don't worry — I'm going for help!"
— Ian Ward, Manchester.

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The Crafty Draughts Machine!

A machine that can play draughts was built by a Dr A. L. Samuel, an American scientist. He taught this electronic "brain" the game and now the machine can beat almost any human opponent. The "brain" is so advanced that every time it loses a game it remembers where it went wrong and makes sure it does not make the same mistake again. By doing this the "brain" is continually gaining knowledge in the game of draughts.

—Paul Wallington, Newham, Blyth.

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On The Carpet

Judge: "Did you steal that carpet?"
Thomp: "No, the man gave me the carpet and told me to beat it."
—Barry Francis, Chess-hunt, Herts.

Mouse Method

Q: If you hear a mouse squeaking at night, what is the best thing to do.

Ans: Get out of bed and all in.

—J. Ridge, Putney, S.W. 15

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Send your jokes, gags, riddles and funny stories to...

"Pop, Pop,"

"The Harpers,"

113 Holbornway St., London, N.7, EGA.

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The Good Old Days

In the Middle Ages, Christmas Day was also bath day for the monks. They were allowed a bath only twice a year — at Christmas and Easter.

In the days of Oliver Cromwell, all celebrations were banned on Christmas Day. Dancing, singing and all merrymaking was strictly taboo. The penalty could be a fine, or even imprisonment. Just to complete the happy picture, a later act was passed prohibiting all eating and drinking.

—D. Wilson, Manchester.

Smoke Joke!

General Carter at the Little Bighorn: "What do these smoke-signals mean?"

First Lieutenant: "Well, sir, roughly translated they mean 'Cowardly, Cowardly Carter'..."

—Alex Mather, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

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The Pudding Fight

In 1718, James Austin, the landlord of the "Red Lion Inn," Southwark, made a monster plum pudding. Austin's masterpiece weighed 1000 lb. This whopper duff was loaded on a cart and, escorted by a band, was taken to St George's Field to be eaten by all his usual customers. But, it never got there.

A hungry mob attacked the cart. Goaded on by the appetizing odour, their onslaught was irresistible and after a short, sharp fight, the plum pudding was captured and eaten on the spot!

—B. Sinclair, Cardiff.

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Hang Fire

John to his pal, "Do you know how to keep an idiot in suspension?"

His pal, "No, I don't."

John, "I will tell you next week."

—Trevor Wigglesworth, Nottingham



Remember to mention your three favourite stories when you write to the Editor.

Christmas Crockers

In Iceland a person's age is reckoned by the number of Yules or Christmases he has attained.

—*THE LANCET*

The chief Christmas dish of French peasants is young donkey.

—*THE LANCET*

The Scandinavian name for Christmas is Yule; the French, Noël; the Dutch, Kerstmis; the Welsh, Noddiad; and the German, Weihnachtsfest.

—*THE LANCET*

Good King Wenceslas of whom you sing carols, was an actual king. He ruled over Bohemia from 871 to 935.

—*THE LANCET*

Straw is used to decorate Greek homes on Christmas Day.
—S. Brown, Glasgow.

Here are the prizes you can win:—

A 50p Postal Order and a special "Hotspur" pen.

PLUS

A choice of one of these super hits:—

A Rotodyne.

H.M.S. Hood.

A Cooper Special.

Dad's Dolt!

"Daddy, there's a man at the door with a bill," a girl shouted to her father.

"Don't be silly," said Dad. "It must be a duck with a hat on."

—Mark Longmore, Doughtybridge, near Sheffield.

Potty Poem

A guard at a station near Tain, Watched a fat lady

boarding a train. When a small boy cried, "Mister, why don't you assist her?"

He replied, "I'm a guard not a crane!"

—William McEwan, Holytown, by Motherwell, Lanarkshire.

Top Three Coupon

Put a tick at your three favourite poems, and send in this coupon with your Pen Pic entries.

BILLY'S BOHKE

☐

BATTLESHIP IN SHADOWS

☐

GREEN ARCHER

☐

VOICE OF THE PAMBA

☐

DIM DAN

☐

GREAT BIG OUSE

☐

WEREWOLVES

☐

THE BRAMPTON KEYS

☐

BOBBY OF BLACK ROCK ☐

Bee-Ware!

A young driver in the Grand Prix, Got stung on the neck by a bee. The pain made him sneeze. While turning a curve, And he found himself stuck in a tree.

—Peter Hoggatt, Lincoln.



BRAMPTON KEYS

LOOK AT ALL THE FAVOURITE PALS YOU CAN MEET IN

THE HOTSPUR ANNUAL

IT'S PACKED WITH THRILLS AND LAUGHS!

DON'T MISS IT!

ON SALE AT ALL NEWSAGENTS AND BOOKSELLERS

PRICE 45

POLICE HOG GRINDER



SCUFFY



RED STAR ROBINSON



900 HAZARD



DUSTY DAN

Scruffy gets the bird - and he's mighty pleased!



DIM DAN - The BOOBYGUARD



His lordship looks a silly mug with his head in an ancient jug!



Stoney's phoney is full of money!



NEXT WEEK - It's just like total war when Dan becomes a film star!

and

The night that a dhow had its day!

THE BATTLESHIP IN THE SHADOWS



In 1940, the German battleship *Bismarck* took refuge up the Louga River in East Africa for repairs. A U-boat, the U-31, brought it supplies then dropped out with the intention of sinking a British convoy in the nearby port of Zanzibar. First, the U-31 tried to sink a patrol dhow commanded by Lieutenant "Tish" Watson, R.N. Tish's ordered a flare to be fired, then—





Wally Beker followed Turkish.



Not long after, at Zanzibar, where Commodore Cyke was in charge.

Meanwhile, Admiral Wetherburn, in charge of operations and aboard the destroyer *Avon*, arrived alongside the U-boat.



Will your ostrich friend reach a sticky end?

GREAT BIG OSSIE

Down in darkest Africa, Ludo Clatterfoot-Snap was planning a dangerous plot to capture Great Big Oosie, a giant ostrich which lived on Ludo's property.

HOW MANY GUESSES WHO'S ABOUT TO COME BACKSTUCK BY GETTING STUCK, LUD?



AND NOW OPEN THE OTHER BURN AND WE'LL SPREAD IT THICK!



SHOBBERT HEAT BE COMING DOWN! TOO HEAT!



OH, BUT IT'S WORKING!



EEK!

AHA! GOTTING MY GOTTING GOTTING I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE BEFORE!



AT LAST I'VE... OH!



YAAARGH! THE GREAT PLATHERING!



WHAT'S HE DOING NOW?



GET HIM INTO THE BUBBLE! BLOWING BUBBLE!



Bonk's a menace when he takes up tennis!

BONK, a great, hairy monster, had slept for thousands of years until the Cavewoman's spear sent him waking him up. He had made friends with Billy Jones and enjoyed a game of football with Billy and his pals.

BILLY'S BONKER





NEXT WEEK — Laughs by the heap when Bob keeps falling asleep!

Watch Jim's champ go on heel and toe!



Your favourite team in a great Xmas complete!

THE BRAMPTON KEYS

TURLEY BARTON was one of the most famous goalkeepers in play for Brampton Keys, the famous First Division team. Tubby had been capped twice but, oh, his weight!



"GOOD ONE, TURLEY, BUT YOU MADE A MISTAKE!"



"TUBBY, YOUR WEIGHT!"



"After the game, if you're any fatter, Tubby, you'll fill the goal!"

"BARTON'S TOO FAT! HE'LL HAVE TO GO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!"



"In the dressing-room, the manager had a word with Tubby."

"A GOOD GOAL, BUT YOU MADE A MISTAKE! IF YOU DON'T LOSE SOME WEIGHT, YOU'LL NEVER BE IN THE TEAM!"



"Tubby's own head a small boarding house and was a reserved cook."

"TUBBY, YOUR WEIGHT!"

"TUBBY, YOUR WEIGHT!"



"YOU'LL NEVER LAST IN THE TEAM! AN APPLE FOR TUBBY!"

"IT'S TERRIBLE! BUT I'LL TRY MY BEST, OR MY PLACE IN THE TEAM!"

Tubby went into really serious training.



"TUBBY'S TRAINING! BUT HE'S TOO FAT! HE'LL NEVER BE IN THE TEAM!"



"The Keys were playing Burton Athletic, and news of Tubby's training campaign had got around."

"TUBBY'S TRAINING! BUT HE'S TOO FAT! HE'LL NEVER BE IN THE TEAM!"

"HOW ABOUT A TRY, TUBBY?"

Barton was seen on the attack.



"OCH! THAT WAS A GOOD ONE!"



"TUBBY, YOUR WEIGHT!"

"TUBBY, YOUR WEIGHT!"



See how your pal cures a garden-digging dog!

PARKER'S BARKERS



The "Voice" drives the sergeant up the wall!





FUNNY LOOKS AT Christmas



BRIGHT BIRD—Roast peacock was a favourite Christmas delicacy in the Middle Ages. Covered with gold leaf and spiced with wine, the birds were carried on platters to the banquet tables.



CATS' CHRISTMAS CARDS—Christmas cards for cats are popular with pet lovers. They can be had for dogs, too, and even for birds!



SAVE OUR SANTAS—Some American states have laws which say that a fine may be imposed on anyone who destroys a child's belief in Santa Claus.



"BEAR" FACED ROBERT—One Christmas Eve, a Canadian trapper hung parcels of food on a small tree. They were to be presents for his Indian pals. But when the Indians showed up on Christmas morning the presents were gone. The tree had been robbed by a crafty bear!



REINDEER ALL BOUND—When Alaska became America's 49th state, she celebrated by presenting 10 reindeer to each of the other states. The deer appeared at Christmas processions and festivals all over America.



PLASTIC-CASE PRESENT—A rich and eccentric man once had a number of plastic cases made of his face. He sent one to each of his friends as a Christmas gift!



TURKEY TRADER—In 1499, Pedro Nunez, a Spanish sailor brought the first turkey to Europe. He had a whole shipload of them, which he had put from Yano (seven Indians for four glass beads per bird).



FIREY FUN—Yule is the Christmas season. Yule means wheel. The festival used to be celebrated in England and Germany by binding straw to a wheel, setting it on fire and pulling it down a hill.